ABSTRACT

A hardware authentication system method for equipment including at least one removable hardware component comprises a processing unit within the equipment that includes a first pseudo-random number generator responsive to at least one non-deterministic event for generating a pseudo-random number. A second pseudo-random number generator is provided on the removable hardware component. The second pseudo-random number generator is also responsive to the at least one non-deterministic event and generates a pseudo-random number. The processing unit compares the pseudo-random numbers generated by the first and second pseudo-random number generators to detect coincidence and thereby determine authenticity of the hardware component.